

United States Patent Application

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that

I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or a joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: METHODS AND APPARATUS PROVIDING SUCTION-ASSISTED TISSUE ENGAGEMENT.

The specification of which

a. X is attached hereto

b. was filed on application serial no. was amended on (if applicable) (in the case of a PCT-filed application) described and claimed in international no. filed and as amended on (if any), which I have reviewed and for which I solicit a United States patent.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).¹

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119/365 of any foreign application(s) for patent of inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on the basis of which priority is claimed:

a. X no such applications have been filed.

b. such applications have been filed as follows:

FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, CLAIMING PRIORITY UNDER 35 USC §119

| COUNTRY | APPLICATION NUMBER | DATE OF FILING | DATE OF ISSUE |
|---------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|
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ALL FOREIGN APPLICATIONS, IF ANY, FILED BEFORE THE PRIORITY APPLICATION(S)

| COUNTRY | APPLICATION NUMBER | DATE OF FILING | DATE OF ISSUE |
|---------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|
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I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120/365 of any United States and PCT international application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §156(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

¹

§ 1.56 Duty of disclosure; fraud, striking or rejection of applications.

(a) A duty of candor and good faith toward the Patent and Trademark Office rests on the inventor, on each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application and on every other individual who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application. All such individuals have a duty to disclose to the Office information they are aware of which is material to the examination of the application. Such information is material where there is substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider it important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent. The duty is commensurate with the degree of involvement in the preparation or prosecution of the application.



| U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER | DATE OF FILING | STATUS (patented, pending, abandoned) |
|-------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| | | |
| | | |

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith:

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Harold R. Patton | Reg. No. 22,157 | Girma Wolde-Michael | Reg. No. 30,724 |
| Thomas G. Berry | Reg. No. 31,736 | Kenneth J. Collier | Reg. No. 34,982 |
| Daniel W. Latham | Reg. No. 30,401 | Curtis D. Kinghorn | Reg. No. 33,926 |
| Thomas F. Woods | Reg. No. 36,726 | Eric R. Waldkoetter | Reg. No. 36,713 |
| Stephen W. Bauer | Reg. No. 32,192 | Michael C. Soldner | Reg. No. 41,455 |
| John W. Albrecht | Reg. No. 40,481 | E. Lacy Belden | Reg. No. 50,751 |
| Paul H. McDowall | Reg. No. 34,873 | Daniel G. Chapik | Reg. No. 43,424 |
| James R. Keogh | Reg. No. 44,824 | | |

Please direct all correspondence in this case to: Daniel W. Latham
Medtronic, Inc.
710 Medtronic Parkway
Minneapolis, MN 55432
763-391-9661

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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|---|-------------------------|--|--|--|
| 2 0 1 | Full Name of Inventor | FIRST NAME David | MIDDLE INITIAL J.S. | LAST NAME Kim |
| | Residence & Citizenship | CITY Maple Grove | STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY Minnesota | COUNTRY of CITIZENSHIP United States |
| | Post Office Address | POST OFFICE ADDRESS 17190 90th Place N. | CITY Maple Grove | STATE/ZIP/COUNTRY MN 55311 USA |
| SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 201:  | | | | DATE: March 17, 2004 |
| 2 0 2 | Full Name of Inventor | FIRST NAME Eric | MIDDLE INITIAL J. | LAST NAME Boone |
| | Residence & Citizenship | CITY St. Michael | STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY Minnesota | COUNTRY of CITIZENSHIP United States |
| | Post Office Address | POST OFFICE ADDRESS 4476 Mason Avenue, NE | CITY St. Michael | STATE/ZIP/COUNTRY MN 55376 USA |
| SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 202:  | | | | DATE: March 12, 2004 |
| 2 0 3 | Full Name of Inventor | FIRST NAME | MIDDLE INITIAL | LAST NAME |
| | Residence & Citizenship | CITY | STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY | COUNTRY of CITIZENSHIP |
| | Post Office Address | POST OFFICE ADDRESS | CITY | STATE/ZIP/COUNTRY |
| SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 203: | | | | DATE: |

Additional pages of this declaration follow.
☒ This is the final page of the declaration.